The Mat-Su Monitor

Volume 1 No. 8 September 22, 1994

The Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College, Palmer, AK.

FALLON RECEIVES AWARD

Elizabeth Fallon, Professor of English, received the "Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service" in the area of Professional and Community Service this past spring. Other categories in the UAA system-wide award include: Teaching, and Research/Creative Activity. Teachers can be nominated by students, faculty, and staff. A committee determines the final decision.

Full time teacher, wife, and mother, Elizabeth has been teaching at Mat-Su College since 1972. She served as a graduate assistant at UAF from 1964 to 1966. She then took her teaching on the road for four years, spending a year in New Zealand, a year in Vermont, and two years in New York.

Her office, which is located next to our computer lab, is cozy and full of books. Her award hangs next to her degree certificates and a bust of her favorite author, Willa Cather (a 20th century poet) seems content looking down from the top of her bookcase. There is paper filed everywhere and one wonders how so much material in such a small place can appear organized.

Elizabeth has also applied for a sabbatical. If she receives it (which depends on how many people apply and how much money is available), she will use it for continuing her graduate work in technical writing. A sabbatical can be applied for once every five years. A requirement of receiving one is that she continue teaching for at least three years after. This means, hopefully, that she will continue her teaching career at Mat-Su Campus for many years to come.

Elizabeth Fallon has much to teach us and will have even more when she returns from sabbatical (if she gets it). She is most definitely an outstanding teacher and well deserving of this prestigious award. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

GLENN MASSAY: HE'S EVERYWHERE

Is there only one of him? or two? or three?

By Kathleen Murphy

Is our school director keeping an eye on us to make sure we're all behaving ourselves in a manner which is beholden of our school? or maybe he's just a guy who enjoys a diversity of experiences in his life. I think it is quite possibly the latter, although you never know.

While speaking with fellow classmates during the second week of this fall semester, one of them reported seeing Glenn at the fair (which doesn't seem too unusual). But then another sighting was reported at the drag races (which seems a bit more unusual). I'm sure that I saw him at UAA around the same time of the other sightings. Then again, it seems he's almost always here, at Mat-Su, either in his office or somewhere else on campus.

Were all these sightings the same man? Tell us, Glenn, is there only one of you? or two? or three? Are you keeping an eye on us now that school is back in full swing? or are you truly everywhere?

writers needed

Your student newspaper needs you. The Mat-Su Monitor is in need of writers. If you would like to be a part of the paper, drop off a sample of your writing in the student newspaper mailbox, (located across from the bookstore, in the white shelves, among all the other boxes) and let us know how to reach you. You can see your name in print or remain anonymous. We are interested in your articles, stories, poems, cartoons, or any other material you would like to send us.

OPINION

Teachers: What Do They Want?

by Kathleen Murphy

While speaking with classmates around the campus, I have heard comments to the effect: After the first test (or paper), I will know what he wants. And: She gave me a D because I didn't agree with her view on a book report.

Students have forever complained about teachers and will continue to do so. But has it come to this? Are students to try and figure out what a particular instructor likes and adjust their work accordingly, whether they agree or not? I realize that everyone has quirks. Some teachers like pencil, some like pen. Some like questions answered in definitions, some say, "just as long as I feel you get the idea." Everyone should have the right to individual preferences. Only when one's opinions are pushed on another, do I see a problem. I wonder if the students whom I have heard complaining about being given poor grades because their opinions differ from their instructors have legitimate gripes or if maybe they didn't make the reason for their opinion clear. Whichever it is, each of us has the right to disagree.

I have had instructors tell me that grades don't matter in the working world. All employers look for is pass or fail. Well, they matter to me. I plan on being a member of the working world and I think it will still matter.

I do get a bit upset when I've tried twice as hard as the person next to me, handed in all assignments on time when he hasn't, always been in class and he hasn't, read the book and he hasn't, and in the end we both get A's. I look at it from the point of view that I'm receiving more knowledge, more bang for my buck as the saying goes. But it is a game we play and in the end it often comes down to the teachers: what do they want?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor ,
Please print this letter in your next edition.

Dear fellow Alaskan students:

Do you favor states' rights, individual sovereignty, gun rights, private property, and limited, constitutional governments? If so, you have a lot in common with Alaskans For Independence-UAF (AFI-UAF).

Alaskans for Independence-UAF is a student club at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It was founded in October 1993 by several members of the Alaskan Independence Party who are attending the University. The activities have included weekly meetings, student government, hosting speakers (Joseph Stumph and Jack Coghill), and disseminating information on the activities of the Federal Government and the New World Order.

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Please deposit letters to the editor in the student newspaper mailbox located across from the bookstore.

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MAT-SU MONITOR

Kathleen M. Murphy--Editor
Carolyn Long--Arts Editor
Kelly Pollock--Math Editor
Shelia Keyser, Amy Menery--Reporters
Ron Roberson--Guest Columnist
Michelle M. McGehee--Staff Secretary

The Mat-Su Monitor welcomes letters to the editor as well as guest columnists. Please see personnel in the Student Government Office for more information or drop material in our mail box at the College or mail to PO Box 2889, Palmer, Ak., 99645.

ARTS PAGE

ART REVUE

by C.E. Long

Volcano, Earth and Water Colors, the September art show in the flat cases by the Mat Su College library features the painted silk scarves of Brigitte Cooper, an adjunct faculty member at MSC.

The six scarves displayed are all pure silk, in crepe de chine, habutai, or chiffon, and are painted with permanent, non-toxic dyes. Most of them are painted in bold, bright abstracts and geometrics, although two display muted colors and softer, more organic forms.

All but one of the scarves possess enough visual excitement to be used as wall hangings. The artist's lively use of color and movement are an unexpected find in functional neckwear and make for a worthwhile visit to the show.

The scarves are all for sale. The artist may be reached at 373-6067 for more information.

A Child's Broken Heart Looks Like

a cherry red balloon, floating into
a cloudless blue sky,

a tattered old teddy bear
lying deserted on the dock,

a lonely looking man
without a tan
where a wedding band should be,
sitting alone at the airport terminal.

by **Dancing Feather**

Dancing Feather is a freshman at Mat Su College

Speeches

Like a bottle of dish soap
when squeezed
holds its breath.

My body tries to cope
with what seems
a fate worse than death.

When I've done my best
and applause resounds,
I puff up with pride.

Like sweaters in a chest
when one is removed
another swells to fill the space left beside.

by **Kathleen Murphy**

Kathleen Murphy is majoring in journalism at MSC.

IMPORTANT ART NOTICES

Earth, Fire, and Fiber, the juried art show at the Anchorage Museum for the crafts and related arts, is accepting submissions of slides until October 28. Please call the musuem for more information.

The art show *Journey to Balance* will open in the Campus Center Gallery at UAA on Thursday, September 22 and run through October 6. The reception is September 22 from 4:30-6:30 pm at the gallery.

SMOKERS

By Ron Roberson

As all nicotine abusers (myself included) know, smoking on campus is highly discouraged. The little concessions that we ARE allowed, such as ashtrays outside the rear doors, are being abused. Cigarette butts are being discarded within easy reach of the ashtrays and some inconsiderate folks are just flipping their butts anywhere they happen to be when they finish their smoke. These people are the ones I am trying to reach.

We will lose the opportunity to smoke at all anywhere in this campus unless this littering of cigarette remains stops. If you smoke, be responsible enough to keep the area clean. The maintenance crew that is assigned to clean up the areas around the campus should not have to pick up after inconsiderate smokers.

Cigarette butts can be extinguished by knocking the remaining tobacco out and disposing of the filter in any receptacle. Please help us keep the right (sort of) to smoke without leaving the campus. KEEP THE SMOKING AREAS CLEAN!

LETTER, cont.

We have a strong membership in Fairbanks, and are now interested in taking this organization statewide. We would eventually like to establish branches in all of the UA system, as well as the private schools inside of Alaska.

There is a particular hurry as this year's election gets closer, as we would like to mobilize student support for Jack Coghill and other AIP candidates.

If you have any interest in assisting AFI-UAF in forming an organization on your campus, please get in touch with me (Jake Ketscher; PO Box 85193; Fairbanks, AK 99708). If you use E-mail, my ACAD3 address is FSJJK. The club's E-mail account is FBAFI.

For Alaska's Future,
Jake Ketscher
President, AFI-UAF

ATTENTION POETS

Owings Mills, Maryland (USA) -- The National Library of Poetry has announced that $12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is September 30, 1994. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1981, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by September 30, 1994. A new contest opens October 1, 1994.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT NEWS

While the rest of us (or most of us, hopefully) were having fun this summer, our student government was working. They traveled to Fairbanks for a meeting in June, and to Homer in August.

One of the subjects discussed was the "Consolidation Cap." As most of you know, after thirteen credits there is no further charge. The consolidation cap would change that to fifteen credits. This subject was discussed, but nothing was decided as of yet.

Also discussed was "Student Fees Revision." The Board of Regents wants to raise the additional fees which are tacked on to many classes after tuition. These fees are used for materials needed for those particular class.

The Board of Regents also wants to raise tuition again. So what's new?

Our student government also entered a float in the State Fair. People involved in construction and\or presentation of the float included: College Director Glenn Massay, SGC Pres. Mark Ewing, SGC VP Shelia Keyser, Nicole Brooks, Walt Fergus, Mark Aldorfer, Ed Garnica, Carolyn Long, Rachel Gathercole, Morgan Gathercole, Joseph Gathercole, Kevin Garnica, Crispin Gentry, Cameron Ewing, DJ Brooks, Jennifer Keyser, Melissa Keyser, Robin Keyser, Charlie Keyser, Kami Adams, Cindy Elmore, Rashad Henson, Brandi Gallant, Brandon Gallant, Amanda Gallant, Will Tackett, and Theron Bair. MSC placed third in theme. Congratulations to all the workers; you did a fine job!

The Mat Su student government would also like to express its sincere appreciation to Willow Hardware, Doyle Holmes, and Pacific Fabrics for donations of materials and to the Happy Hooker towing company for the use of their flatbed truck.

A parent needs more hands;
a scholar needs more time.
Anonymous

In case you happen to move, you will find it nice to know that you can continue your education almost anywhere in the state at one of the branches of the University of Alaska system, however, not all classes are transferable depending on the programs available. All the branches are Members of the Coalition of Student Leaders as listed below.

University of Alaska Anchorage

Kachemak Bay Student Association (Homer)
Kodiak College Student Association
Matanuska-Susitna College Student Government
Prince William Sound Community College Student Association
Union of Students of Kenai Peninsula College
Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks
Kuskokwim Campus Student Government
Bristol Bay Campus Student Association
Northwest Campus Student Body

University of Alaska Southeast

United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast - Juneau
United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast - Ketchikan
United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast - Sitka

Other Members

Alaska Pacific University Student Council
Sheldon Jackson College Student Council
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education Student Representative

NOTICES

ASHRAE meets October 6 at 6:00 pm, in Room 126. There will be an election of officers. The Monitor welcomes Doug Hunt as the new representative to the student government.

ART club meets September 27 at 6:00 pm in the Art Room. There will be election of officers and discussion of plans for a student art sale in November.

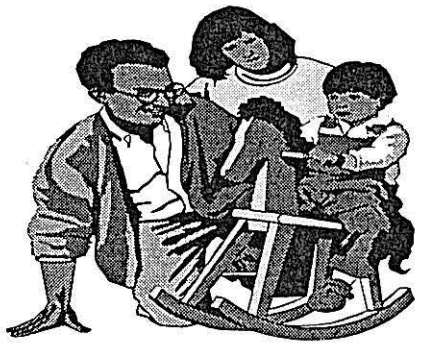
HUMAN SERVICE MAJORS must sign up for Spring Practicum by October 10. An application package can be obtained from the MSC counselors.

GET TO KNOW YOUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND FELLOW STUDENTS

Dr. P.T. Chang was married over the summer. He wed Kan Li, who is a civil engineer. She is from Liuzhdu, Quangsi, China. Welcome to Mat-Su College Campus, Kan Li.

Vickie Cole and her husband Dennis Mckenzie exhibited their wares at the Alaska State Fair this year. In their booth, "Birch Grove Studios," pottery and some small native Alaskan masks, which Vickie makes into pins, were displayed. The items are all hand-made by Vickie and Dennis. When asked about profits, Vickie said that this year was better than last year, probably because we had such nice weather.

One of our fellow students, Bill Miller, won first place in the category of Top Sportsman at Polar Raceway over Labor Day weekend. He also won King of the Mountain by beating out last year's King. Bill received a trophy and $400 for his efforts. Congratulations Bill!



Anyone interested in starting an Alcoholic's Anonymous / Narcotic's Anonymous meeting at noon please contact Grace at 376-5937

<The Cube>

a presentation of the MSC Math Club
by Kelly Pollock

MATH CLUB NEWS:

The Math Club welcomes anyone who loves math, anyone who hates math, or anyone in between. We wish to include all levels of math students.

We are still working on getting organized, so watch the bulletin boards for notices of our meetings. Be sure to take a look at the Math Club bulletin board near P.T.'s office.

INTERESTING NUMBERS:

Perfect, Amicable, and Sociable Numbers

A natural number is called ***perfect*** if it is equal to the sum of all its proper divisors. For example, the proper divisors of 6 are 1, 2, and 3. Since 1+2+3=6, 6 is a perfect number. The proper divisors of 28 are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 14. Since 1+2+4+7+14=28, 28 is a perfect number. The next higher perfect number is 496.

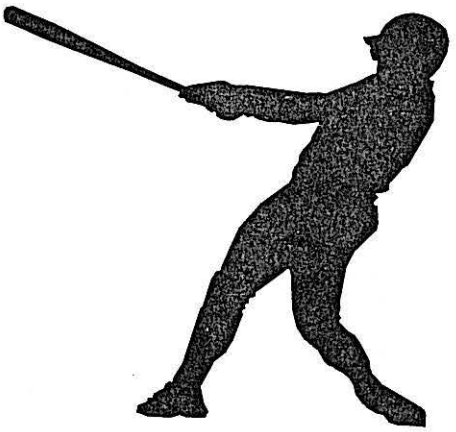
Two numbers are called ***amicable*** (friendly) if the sum of the proper divisors of each is equal to the other. For example, the proper divisors of 220 are 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 20, 22, 44, 55, and 110 and they add up to 284. The proper divisors of 284 are 1, 2, 4, 71, and 142, and they all add up to 220. So 220 and 284 are amicable numbers.

A series of numbers is called ***sociable chain*** if, when you arrange them in a circle, the sum of the proper divisors of each one of them is equal to the next number in the circle (always in the same direction around the circle). 14536, 15472, 14288, 14264, form a sociable chain.

from: Mathematics by Irving Adler

ANSWER TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THE BASEBALL PICNIC



by Carolyn E. Long

This last August while the players and owners of major league baseball were apparently content to forever tinker with the chance of a never-ending strike, some friends of mine and I turned away from those incredible displays of pomposity and greed, and instead spent time remembering what baseball means to us on a more personal level. We sifted through memories distilled from long, hot summer days in our hometown squares and from the dozens of family reunions, and of course, from all those endless turns taking the kids to T-Ball.

In my nostalgia file I found one special game that I treasure the most. It happened more or less like this.

When my friends from the office and I arrived at our annual Fourth of July picnic, the pavillion in the subdivision park was already strewn with the papery red and green tatters of hundreds of firecrackers. The sun was so bright that it cast shadows as sharp as knives and when the children dashed in under the roof, for a second they seemed like negatives of themselves to our dazzled eyes.

We were all eager to eat, but we adults had to wade through the ravenous kids to reach the table laden with half a hundred of everybody's favorite potluck dishes. There were such things as baked beans, coconut cake, Swedish meatballs, and more, not to mention a quivery fish something made by the engineer's Filipino wife, which everybody tasted politely and then washed down with a furtive visit to the beer keg. It was more food than thirty people could eat in a week, let alone one afternoon; it occurred to me how ironic it was that we Westerners still observe this ancient celebration of prosperity and wealth in spite of our obsessions with health and slimness.

It was easy and so natural for us to follow all the summer rituals. We bruised our heels crushing cans, yelled at bickering dogs, soothed ruffled children, and took the greatest joy in spitting out watermelon seeds in such impossible arcs that at the end of their wild flights, they lay scattered everywhere like shining jewels half-buried in the dust.

After we had stuffed and restuffed our protesting stomachs, we drifted out to the tall, sunburnt grass of the ragged clearing that we would use as our field. With some lazy arguments about who was to pitch and the sideline umps set to man the coolers and Cutters, the warm-ups were over, and it was time to start. The sun was still a strategic factor, but there was a dampness in the shadows to remind us that the long days were already getting shorter.

We chose five year old Jane to pitch, to her gleeful amazement. Our equipment was carpet square bases, a red plastic bat, and an old softball. Nobody cared much about team designation, but we were all in awe of our boss's uniform, which consisted solely of neon pink shorts, a brevity on bare flesh designed to show off his holiday muscles.

The play was loud and fast, with lots of good-natured cheating; after a spectacular triple play, the third basemen tied his wife's shoelaces to his and wouldn't let her score on the bunt. She threatened to divorce him on the spot, but I noticed that they were holding hands when they left later. I tripped while sprinting for home and hurt my middle-aged knees, but the screaming and cheering made it all worth while.

Jane pitched for both sides and did a bangup job until her temper ran out at about the same time as the beer and hot sun. Her little face was so red with tears and fury that somebody offered to toast marshmellows on it, which didn't help her mood any.

We had a hasty cleanup scramble, and with a few more beers, a search for sweaters, and some last minute gossip, everyone was gone, leaving only the weeds to bend back up in the silent diamond.

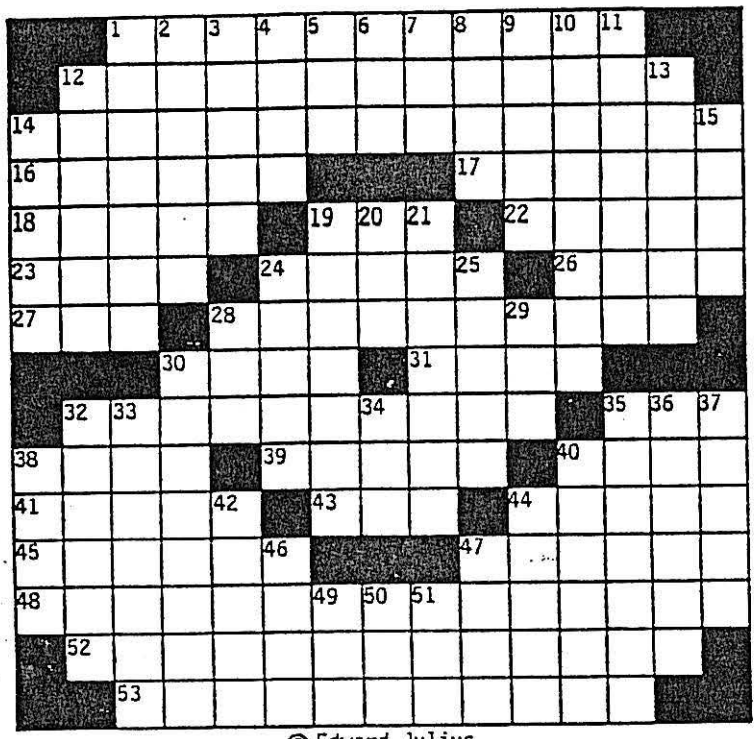
In the car going home, Jane calmed down for a while, then roused, and was frantic to know, *did we win, did my side win?* Then she fell asleep in my arms, never knowing, as I don't know to this day, who won, and why it was important.

But I do know that nobody lost.

NOTICES CONTINUED

STUDENT GOVERNMENT meeting on September 30, 5:30 pm, in Room 108. There are still seats open for Senator positions.

The Student Government will be sponsoring the ***Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week*** during the week of October 23 through 31. Please plan to participate by wearing a ribbon. They will be available in the Student Government office.



© Edward Julius

ACROSS

1 Where one might study Andy Warhol's works (3 wds.)
12 Enrollment into college
14 "Calculus Made Simple," e.g. (2 wds.)
16 Evaluate
17 Extremely small
18 Follows a recipe direction
19 Belonging to Mr. Pacino
22 Of land measure
23 Meets a poker bet
24 —— Gay (WW II plane)
26 Capri, e.g.
27 Belonging to Mayor Koch
28 Irritate or embitter
30 Train for a boxing match
31 —— and the Belmonts
32 Processions
35 Diet supplement (abbr.)
38 Scottish historian and philosopher
39 College in Greenville, Pa.
40 The Venerable ——
41 "...not with —— but a whimper."
43 Return on investment (abbr.)
44 Pondered
45 Belonging to Mr. Starr
47 Part of the classifieds (2 wds.)
48 Possible place to study abroad (2 wds)
52 Small school in Canton, Ohio (2 wds.)
53 Orson Welles film classic (2 wds.)

DOWN

1 Those who are duped
2 "Do unto ——..."
3 Fourth estate
4 Goals
5 Well-known record label
6 Well-known king
7 151 to Caesar
8 Prefix meaning milk
9 Confused (2 wds.)
10 —— husky
11 Most immediate
12 Like a sailboat
13 Cash register key (2 wds.)
14 En —— (as a whole)
15 Auto racing son of Richard Petty
19 Political disorder
20 —— cit. (footnote abbreviation)
21 Traveled on a Flexible Flyer
24 Glorify
25 Prospero's servant in "The Tempest"
28 Well-known government agency
29 American league team (abbr.)
30 Fictional hypnotist
32 Style exemplified by Picasso
33 "She's ——..." (from "Flashdance")
34 Be unwell
35 Visible trace
36 Think
37 Woman's undergarment
38 Commit ——-kiri
40 —— burner
42 "...for if I —— away..."
44 Actress Gibbs
46 African antelope
47 Well-known TV bandleader
49 Pince—— (eyeglass type)
50 1968 film, "—— Station Zebra"
51 1965 film, "—— Ryan's Express"

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE LIGHTS?

By Kathleen Murphy

What's going on with the lights? I might be getting older and my vision could be getting worse, but the other day I started to pull over for a rusty blue compact station-wagon. It had a flashing blue light on top and was coming at me from in the distance ahead. Law abiding citizen that I am, I slowed to pull over and give the trooper room. I soon noticed that the flashing light coming at me wasn't what I thought it was.

It seems that anybody can put any color flashing light on top of their car they want. I thought there were supposed to be rules on flashing lights. Let's see if I can get them straight; yellow is for the tow trucks, red is for ambulances, blue and white and red is for cops, strobe lights are for the school busses--or is it red for fire trucks, yellow for road workers, orange for tow trucks and blue for station-wagons? I think certain pick-up trucks have orange. And the troopers; aren't theirs red and blue from the front and red and white from the back? Wait a minute don't dump trucks and wood deliverers use yellow? And state workers... Oh, I'm getting confused.

Maybe there are no rules on flashing lights after all. One thing for sure, there are a lot of them out there on our roads. Maybe I'll get a green one for my Escort.

I have just been informed, by a child, that blue flashing lights are for the volunteer fire department. The little tike had to add, "Boy, don't you know nothin?" I guess I'm just not up to date on this subject!

Answer to crossword puzzle on page 6.